



Berrien County Public Defender's Office
100 Church Street,
St. Joseph, MI 49085

March 9, 2017

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
200 N. Washington Square, 3rd Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
Submitted via e-mail: comments@michiganidc.gov

Re: Proposed Minimum Standards 1-4

Dear MIDC/LARA,

I write to express my strong support of MIDC Proposed Minimum Standards 1-4 for Appointed Counsel. I consider these standards to be imperative in making progress on the state of indigent defense in Michigan.

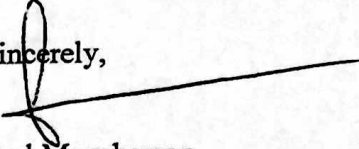
By way of background, I have been a practicing attorney for almost 20 years. I have practiced criminal defense as an Assistant Public Defender in Washington, D.C., Oregon, and Michigan. I have also practiced as retained counsel in a criminal defense law firm based in Washtenaw County. In total, I have practiced criminal defense in roughly 11 counties in Michigan.

I am currently the Chief Public Defender in Berrien County. The Berrien County Public Defender Office was created by the Berrien County Commissioners in October of 2016 and officially opened on January 3, 2017. Our Public Defender Office has made efforts to proactively follow the Proposed Minimum Standards because we believe they are necessary to provide our clients with quality representation.

During my legal career, I have also worked in other offices that adhere to the Proposed Minimum Standards without an official, state requirement. The Standards provide a foundation to work toward providing all persons charged with a crime(s) with quality representation regardless of their economic status.

I strongly encourage LARA to adopt the standards as written. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Carl Macpherson
Chief Public Defender
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St. Joseph, MI 49085
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